

Inventory and Monitoring Program



The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.

Project Highlights – October 2006

Science Communication Workshop – *Sharing with each other and sharing with the public* –

The SFAN Network recently co-hosted a two-day workshop at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Pacific Coast Science and Learning Center, park staff, regional, and national staff were also involved in the planning. Instructors came from as far away as Colorado and Alaska. The workshop set out to enhance the value of and promote effective science communication, demonstrate informational and interpretive tools for science communication and, provide opportunities for participants to initiate science communication strategies for a particular park resource or issue. Presentations and meeting notes have been posted to the network website: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm>. The workshop is already resulting in a number of action items:

- a. science and interpretation staff at Pinnacles National Monument are initiating a park wide science communication strategy.
- b. science communication action items are being integrated into long-term monitoring protocols and into individual network staff performance plans.
- c. interpretation staff at MUWO are working with fish monitoring specialists to develop film segments to inform the public about fish ecology and monitoring efforts.
- d. the Office of Education and Outreach is planning a follow up workshop at the 2007 George Wright Society conference.



Wendy Swee, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and Deanne Adams, Regional Chief of Interpretation and Education exchange science communication ideas. Photo by Adrienne Barrett.

Ooooh - Dats Scaarrrry - With Halloween around the corner, the common perception is that bats are scary, evil, and dangerous. Perhaps this belief exists because they are active at night when most of us are asleep ...or perhaps because we have heard stories about blood-sucking vampire bats. Fortunately, our bat researchers are not afraid of bats and instead are very intrigued by the 16 species that occur in Coastal California based on species range maps (Heady and Frick 2004). Using guano traps, acoustic bat detectors and mist nets between 1999 and 2005, researchers identified a variety of bat species at each park: EUON (9), GOGA (9), JOMU (9), MUIR (10), PINN (16) and PORE (9). Incidentally, none of them were vampire bats. But on Halloween, anything is possible, so be sure to keep your garlic handy.

For more information on the bat inventories, see the fact sheets posted to our website along with the inventory report which summarizes results from all of the network inventories: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sfan/index.cfm>.

For more information about these and other Inventory and Monitoring Program projects, contact Marcus Koenen, Network Coordinator (Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov; 415-331-5734).